

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 08971 031911Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 031859Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3105

INFO DOD WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCPAC

CINCLANT

S E C R E T LONDON 08971

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, UK, US

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: LONDON 8459; STATE 139637

POLITICAL COUNSELOR WROTE ROSE (ASST. UNDERSECRETARY, FCO) 3 AUGUST TO CLOSE CIRCUIT RE EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA, TEXT AS FOLLOWS:
"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 16 JULY REGARDING EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA. WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PLAN, AND SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED FULLY AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

"I AGREE FULLY WITH YOUR PROPOSAL THAT WE LEAVE TO OUR RESPECTIVE MILITARY AUTHORITIES THE DETAILS OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY BRITISH UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE EXPANDED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON THE ISLAND.

"ON THE OTHER MATTER WHICH YOU HAVE RAISED, PARTICIPATION OF BRITISH FIRMS IN CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE FACILITY, IT IS OUR INTENTION -- BOTH FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSIDERATIONS AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY IN THE PROJECT -- TO COMPLETE CURRENT AND FOLLOW-ON CONSTRUCTION WITH US NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION UNITS.

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SHOULD THESE PLANS CHANGE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD CERTAINLY

CONSIDER OPENING THE PROJECT TO INTERNATIONAL BIDDING,
IN WHICH UK FIRMS COULD COMPETE."

SOHM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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